THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The Times of India in its publication dated 22.2.99 had reported that the Consumer Education and Research Society (CE&RS), Ahmedabad has tested 28 widely sold brands of milk and found all of them contaminated with health threatening bacteria. The Government of Gujarat has informed that only one sample of a leading brand of milk selling shop was found to contain staphyloccoccus Aureus, which is health threatening bacteria.

(b) and (c) In the report of CE&RS, the exact reason of contamination is not mentioned. However, in subsequent inspection and investigation, the presence of bacteria could not be confirmed. The samples drawn and microbiologically tested by the inspectors of Government of Gujarat revealed that the samples were free from pathogenic micro-organisms.

Dairy premises were inspected by the officers of Food and Drug Control Administration, of the Government of Gujarat, to ensure hygienic conditions at the places of collection, storage, production and distribution of milk to ensure its quality. Strict vigil is kept on quality of milk by the State Government of Gujarat.

Extention to FCI Officers

2826. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many officers in the Food Corporation of India have been given extension of tenure after their age of retirement and the reasons therefor; and

(b) what is the total number of vacancies remaining unfilled in the FCI and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Storage Capacity of FCI for Wheat

2827. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Wheat Crop faces serious storage crisis", as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 6th March, 1999;

(b) whether the FCI is facing shortage of sapce for storing the wheat crop; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken by Government to enhance the storage capacity of FCI godowns in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The FCI is having adequate storage capacity of 23.47 million tonnes against stocks of 15.38 million tonnes held as on 1.3.99. Further, the field officers of FCI have been delegated full powers to hire additional storage capacity from the State Govt./CWCs/SWCs and private parties as per requirements from time to time.

(c) Does not arise.

Toothless Food Adulteration Act

2828. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Adulteration Act lacks teeth to punish adulterators of

papaya seeds in pepper, brick powder with chillies and argemone with mustard seeds;

(b) the number of such offenders punished in Delhi during last two years;

(c) how the offenders got scot free in view of spurious materials freely circulated in the market; and

(d) the measures proposed to make the laws more stringent for immediate action against adulterators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The requisite information to the extent available with the Government of NCT of Delhi is given as under:

S. No.	Item	Year	No. of samples lifted	No. of samples found adulterated
1.	Chillies	1997	41	11
		1998	16	6
2.	Peper	1997	3	1
		1998	—	—
3.	Mustard Oil	1997	13	1
		1998	318	103

In all cases where adulteration has been detected, prosecution proceedings have been launched. The cases are subjudice.

(d) The implementation of PFA Act rests with State/U.T. Governments. The Food (Health) Authorities of State/U.T. have been requested time and again to keep a strict vigil on the Production, Distribution and sale of food products, draw maximum number of samples under PFA Act 1954 and to ensure speedy action in filing complaints in the courts.

Action against those found responsible for adulteration is taken by the designated courts, after the prosecution proceedings are finalised.

Revival of Sick Sugar Mills

2829. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many sugar factories are lying sick in cooperative sector and private sector in the country.

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) what is the total loss accumulated by such sick sugar mills; and

(d) how Government plan to revive such sick sugar mills in any sector, whatsoever?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The Sugar mills in the country are grouped in three sectors namely, Public, Private and Cooperative. The sick sugar mills under the Cooperative Sector are not required to be registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and are dealt with by the State Cooperative Societies Acts. The sick sugar units belonging to Private and Public Sector are covered under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985. According to BIFR, 31 sick sugar mills in Private Sector have been registered with them as on 28.02.1999. Out of 31 sugar mills 1 mill was registered twice at different point of time. In view of that actually 30 sugar mills are registered with BIFR.